Supply of imported sugar through PDS

1583. SHRI SANJAY DALMIA : Will the Minister of FOOD be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that Government have decided to supply imported sugar through PDS;

(b) if so, whether the imported sugar is to be distributed at the same rate as that of the indigenous sugar or the two rates would be different; and

(c) if the price of imported sugar could cost more for the customers, whether the poorer sections of the society would be able to bear the burden?

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF FOOD (SHRI KALP-NATH RAI): (a) to (c) Government have decided to supply imported sugar along with indigenous sugar through Public Distribution System at a uniform retail price of Rs. 9.05 per kg.

Retail price of sugar

1584. SHRI SURESH PACHOURI: Will the Minister of FOOD be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Sugar industry has assured Government that the retail prices of free sale sugar in the open market will not exceed Rs. 15.50 per kg.;

(b) if so, whether Government had a number of discussions with all the sugar industries in the country;

(c) if so, to what extent the prices of sugar had been checked; and

(d) whether the prices of sugar had come down from Rs. 20/- per kg to Rs. 15/- per kg. in the open market during the month of June, 1994?

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF FOOD (SHRI KALP NATH RAI): (a) and (b) Two meetings were held on 6-6-1994 and 25-6-1994 with the industry/trade in an effort to bring down sugar prices in the open market. In these meetings the industry had assured that they would endeavour to sell sugar at such prices so that the retail price of free sale sugar in the open market remains between Rs. 14.50 to Rs. 15.50 per kg.

(c) and (d) The retail prices of sugar in the open market have generally shown a declining trend in the last days of May, June and July, 1994. The retail price of sugar (S-30 grade) in the principal markets of the country which was in the range of Rs. 15.00—17.30 per kg. on 19-5-1994 decreased to a range of Rs. 14.00—17.00 per kg. in June, 1994 and further to a range of Rs. 12.80—16.40 per kg. in July, 1994 (upto 27th July, 1994).

Sugar Mills offer to make Gur from Cane

1585. SHRI YERRA NARAYANASWAMY: Will the Minister of FOOD be pleased to state:

(a) whether sugar mills have offered to make gur from cane;

(b) whether it is a fact that Indian Sugar Mills Association (ISMA) has made such an offer;

(c) if so, the reaction of the Government in this regard;

(d) whether such a conversion by large mills would cause unemployment;

(e) if so, the reaction of Government; and

(f) what is the socio-economic impact of large sugar mills producing gur?

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF FOOD (SHRI KALP NATH RAI): (a) to (c) The Indian Sugar Mills Association in a note submitted to Government had made a proposal that the sugar mills should be permitted to convert cane to gur/jaggery.

The Indian Sugar Mills Association was requested to submit a detailed pro-

posal in this regard for consideration of Government, which is still awaited.

(d) to (f) The proposal is still in a preliminary stage and no decision has been taken by the Government of India in the matter till yet.

Sugar Mills in Kurukshetra and Yamuna Nagar

1586. SHRI KRISHNA KUMAR BIRLA: Will the Minister of FOOD be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that licences for sugar mills in Kurukshetra and Yamuna Nagar districts were granted overruling the recommendations of the highpowered inter-ministerial Screening Committee;

(b) if so, what were the proposals for Kurukshetra and Yamuna Nagar regions and the proposals recommended by the highpowered inter ministrial Screening Committee;

(c) the applicants who were given licences ignoring the recommendations of the Screening Committee; and

(d) the relevant details thereof?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF FOOD (SHRI KALP NATH RAI): (a) and (b) Proposals for setting up of new sugar mills in Haryana, including those received from Kurukshetra and Yamunanagar districts, were considered by the Screening Committee on 22.6.1993. The Committee, after consideration, recommended grant of a letter of intent in district Yamunanagar. The Committee, however, did not recommend grant of any letter of intent in district Kurukshetra.

A statement giving the details of proposals received from the districts of Kurukshetra and Yamunanagar and the recommendations made by the Screening Committee is enclosed (*see* below).

(c) and (d) The Chairman and Managing Director of M/s Saraswati Industrial Syndicate Ltd. through a representation dated 10.7.93 requested for change of location from village Pipli to village Kamoda in Kurukshetra district. The matter was reviewed and it was decided by the Ministry of Food to recommend the grant of letter of intent/licence for the establishment of a new sugar factory at the changed location of Kamoda. The Licensing Committee in the Ministry of Industry considered the matter and agreed with the recommendation of the Ministry of Food.

The following letters of intent have been issued in districts of Kurukshetra and Yamunanagar by the Ministry of Industry.

Sl. No.	Name of applicant	Location
1.	M/s. ISGEC Covema Plastics Ltd.	At Kamoda Teh. Thanesar, Distt. Kurukshetra.
2.	M/s. Horizon Agro Chem. Ltd. C/o Yamuna Gases & Chemicals Ltd.	At Kot, Teh. Chachrauli, Distt. Yamunanagar.